

The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2016-17
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 8

Introduction: *Connect to the lesson with an icebreaker.*

Today's lesson is one of the Bible's greatest reversal stories. A reversal story is when you think something is going one way and then it ends up moving in the opposite direction.

Ask your group if they can think of a situation or time in their life or in history when they believed something was going one way and the great reversal happened.

Some examples might be: slavery, Berlin Wall, the death of war heroes or war enemies, presidential elections, a family member battling cancer, or a divorce proceeding. Ask, "What is your great reversal story and how did the reversal affect you?"

Point 1: *Help your group understand the theme through definition.*

Read James 4:10: "Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will exalt you." As a group write a definition for the word humble.

Then ask, "How do we humble ourselves before the Lord? In light of the session, why is it important to be humble?"

Point 2: *Share your personal "great reversal" story.*

In Part 2, we are exposed to Haman's sin and his desire to see the Jewish people and Mordecai killed. In Esther 6:13, we see that Haman's own wife predicted he would not overcome God's people and would surely fall. God thwarted Haman's evil intent and the great reversal ends with Haman being hanged by his own noose.

At this point in the session, share your salvation story of how Christ came into your life and rescued you from sin and death. As God rescued the Jewish people from death in the Book of Esther, similarly God has rescued from death all who, through faith, receive Christ as Savior and Lord.

Write out the following passages from Scripture and call on volunteers from the group to read them:

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 10:9-10
- 1 John 1:9

After reading these Scriptures, invite your group to respond. Ask your group members to consider if any of them to repent of their sin and receive Christ as Savior and Lord. Encourage anyone who does to speak with you or someone from the group. Before moving on, pray with your group namely asking God to draw to Himself anyone there who has not yet come to experience saving faith in Christ.

Point 3: *Challenge with Scripture.*

The story of Esther is much like the story of Joseph. Genesis 50:20 says, “You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result – the survival of many people.”

The Genesis passage is a powerful demonstration of the reversal of victory and defeat. Joseph’s brother’s left him for dead and God, according to His plan, turned around the situation to bring life not only to his family but also for all of Israel.

Lead your group to respond by asking the question, “How has the Lord given you victory over defeat?”

Conclusion: *Close out group time with a song.*

Close out your group with a prayerful song. Play the song “Great Are You Lord” by All Sons and Daughters. A live version is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHz0w-HG4iU>

Before playing the song, allow your group to spread out and prayerfully listen to the words in a time of praise to the Lord for His character and for His great love

for each one of us. Then voice a corporate prayer thanking the Lord for turning the tables on His enemies and saving His people.